

Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the office action dated July 28, 2004.

Applicant confirms the prior election in relation to Claims 29, 30 and 33.

Applicants acknowledge that in many situations plastic parts can be substituted for metal parts. This substitution is not "the invention." The invention deals with economies of design; the invention deals with the breaking of a paradigm; the invention relates to a new way of viewing the parts that make up the combination known as a seat belt retractor.

The classic seat belt retractor includes inter alia, a retractor, a length of seat belt webbing and a metal frame. Today's retractor will often include some type of energy management such as a torsion bar. When the torsion bar twists, the reaction force transmitted to the frame is limited because the torsion bar can only generate a limited level of torque as it elastically deforms. Even in view of this reduced level of reaction force, today's retractor continues to use a metal frame (capable of holding an elephant) where the metal frame is designed to be able to hold against a pulling force of about 6000 lbs, much higher than the level of reaction force generated by the torsion bar.

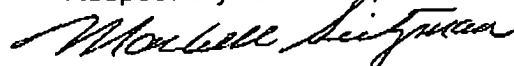
The invention, as defined in Claim 29 and newly added Claim 34, is in the recognition that the mechanical properties of the frame need only be equal to or at least slightly higher than the reaction force producing properties of the torsion bar. This concept and combination is not shown in the prior art and reconsideration is requested.

With regard to Claim 33, reconsideration is also requested. The prior art does not teach the use of a cup-shaped lower mounting member, and in relation to new Claim 35, the prior art does not show the use of single mounting member.

With regard to the filing of a timely terminal disclaimer, application will do so, if needed in response to the next office action.

In view of the aforementioned, it is respectfully urged that the present application be reconsidered, the claims allowed, and the case passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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